

RULES

Surrey Mixed Team Knockouts

Winter 2024/25

For clarity, changes in wording since the previous rules are highlighted in red.

These regulations are drawn up by the Competitions Committee who may vary them at their discretion. Such regulations will apply in all County Competitions except where amended or superseded by special regulations.

Competitions under these regulations shall be conducted by the Competitions Committee, whose decision on all matters relating thereto shall be final.

Competitions are open only to registered venues of the Association and to members thereof.

Players in County Competitions must have LTA Advantage Tennis membership as a minimum and be linked to the venue they represent.

Only playing members of a registered venue may play in county competitions.

The Competitions Committee may divide any or all of the competitions into groups and/or divisions at their discretion.

The council has the right to refuse any entry, and to transfer any entry where it deems appropriate.

A player may play for only one club in any one type of event in a season but a player may play for a different club in a different competition.

Match Day Rules

Player Eligibility:

To ensure you do not field INELIGIBLE players please read the following:

- Tier 1 – we recommend that players with a WTN of 25.0 or better play in Tier 1
- Tier 2 - ONLY open to players with a WTN between 26.0 and 40.9
As at July 2024

Competition Structure:

- Matches are to be played on weekends unless captains agree otherwise.
- The event will begin in November and the finals day will take place in **March 2025**
- Teams will have a date by which the match must be played. Match rubber results to be entered on-line within 48 hours of play.
- Once the winner has entered their score online and makes the Coordinator aware, they will be told their next opponent and who has home advantage.

Team Composition:

Team of 4 players per match (2 women and 2 men).

Match Structure:

The Mixed Team Knockout will use a 'medley' format:

- Men's Doubles vs. Men's Doubles
- Women's Doubles vs Women's Doubles
then...
- Mixed Doubles 1 vs Mixed Doubles 1
- Mixed Doubles 2 vs Mixed Doubles 2

Scoring:

The scoring will be 2 Tie-Break sets followed at a set all by a Champions Tie-Break (to 10 points 2 clear). Each match shall be decided on the combined results:

- a. If rubbers are tied, the number of sets won will decide.
- b. If sets are tied, the number of games won will decide.
- c. If games are tied, the combined result of the first two rubbers will decide first rubbers, then sets, then games.
- d. If a tie still prevails, then the result of the leading rubber, i.e. 1st mixed Pair v 1st mixed pair, will decide the match.

Lateness of a team:

If a player is absent without good cause when called upon to play at the expiration of thirty minutes from the time agreed for the commencement of the match, his opponent or opponents shall be entitled immediately to one love set, and at the expiration of sixty minutes to a further love set.

Player Retirement:

If a player retires during a rubber, the score as stands is entered at the point of cessation. The status of that rubber will be recorded as 'retired' selecting the winning team.

They can however return for the 2nd rubber if they wish. If they do not return for the second rubber, then that rubber will be recorded as 'walkover' with no score entered.

Weather Delay

If a match is postponed due to inclement weather the match is decided as follows:

- If 2 or more rubbers have been completed at the point of cessation those rubber results stand. Scores for any rubbers unfinished should be recorded as at the state of cessation and recorded 'to be finished' i.e if the score is 6-2, 1-4 at the point the rubber is halted that is what should be entered.
If a winner is not clearly identified we recommend the match is finished on an alternative day(s) with the same players...and started from the previous score. If a completion date(s) cannot be agreed the match result will be decided by the toss of a coin by the Surrey office.
- If 2 rubbers have not been completed the match is replayed from scratch, you will not require the same players.

Balls/Hospitality:

- i.) Players should bring their own drinks / snacks to matches.
- ii.) Home teams must offer access to water and access to toilet facilities. Clubs are not obliged to open changing room facilities.
- iii.) There is no obligation for home teams to provide refreshments
- iv.) Home teams must provide a minimum of 3 brand new balls for rubbers MD vs MD and WD vs WD. The same balls can then be used for the following 2 rubbers. Clubs are allowed to provide new balls if they wish after the first two rubbers are completed, however both captains must be in agreement.

Walkover Claims:

If a team pulls out of match within **72 hours** of the arranged start time, then they will immediately concede the walkover unless captains mutually agree another date to play. Walkovers CAN ONLY be sanctioned/ entered by the Coordinators.

Court Surface/Indoor:

Any surface is permitted to be played on, it is the decision of the home team. However once a match starts on a chosen surface, unless weather intervenes, then the match must NOT be moved to another surface during the rubber unless

captains mutually agree. Matches are permitted to take place indoors if the home venue has the option.

Consolation Draw

Teams who lose their first match will be entered into a Consolation Knockout Draw. Finals for the Consolation Draw will take place in one of the team's home club.

Finals Day – Main Draws Only

The Finals Day will take place on **Sunday, 23rd March 2025 venue to be confirmed.**

All White Clothing:

We are aware that some clubs competing in Surrey competitions have regulations in place that state that dress on their courts should be predominantly white. Although clubs are allowed to request the opposition team adhere to this rule, they cannot insist on it. For any questions relating to this, please contact the Surrey office.

Trans-Gender:

Surrey Tennis sanctions trans males and females wishing to take part in any Surrey Tennis competition. We recognise, however, that there may be some concerns about fairness in the women's and mixed game. Our policy assumes that trans women (male-to-female trans person) wishing to compete in mixed or female sanctioned tennis competitions do so with the best of intentions and with no intent to deceive about their status to gain any competitive advantage. Accordingly, you should accept people in the gender they present and verification of their identity should be no more than that expected of any other player. If you need more information regarding our policy on trans players or if you would like to discuss a concern about competing against a trans player, then please contact competitions@surrey.tennis

Verbal Abuse, Harassment, Intimidation & Threatening Behaviour:

If a parent, member of staff, consultant, coach, official or volunteer acts in an abusive way toward their child or a player then you should report the concern to the LTA Safeguarding team via: <https://safeguardingconcern.lta.org.uk/>. If you believe the child/player is in immediate danger please call the Police on 999 or if it is not deemed an emergency, please report via 101. For additional advice, you can also contact the NSPCC and/or other Surrey local authority children services:

- *Local Authority Children's Social Care Services*

- *Local Authority Adult Social Care Services*

If there is an incident where no referee is present, then any complaint about the conduct of a player and/or their entourage should be made to the Surrey Competitions Manager by the Captain of the team (in team competitions) or individual players (in knockout matches). All complaints must be made within 2 days of the alleged incident occurring.

The complaint must be made in writing (which includes e-mail) and shall set out full details of the incident giving rise to the complaint and identifying all the players involved. Any supporting evidence must be submitted with the complaint.